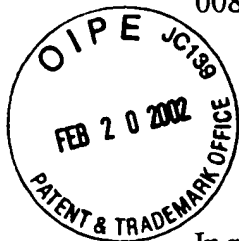


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00862.022443.

PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Technology Center 2100

In re Application of: )

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

HIDEKI INA ET AL. )

Group Art Unit: 2121

Appln. No.: 09/988,875 )

Filed: November 21, 2001 )

For: INDUSTRIAL MACHINE )  
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND )  
METHOD )

February 15, 2002

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED  
FEB 22 2002  
Technology Center 2100

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

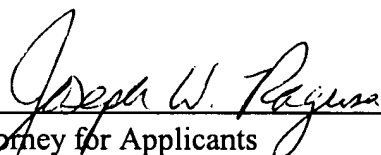
In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed.

For a concise explanation of the relevance of Japanese Patent No. JP11015520, the Examiner is referred to the discussion at page 5, lines 1-12, of the specification, and the attached English Abstract. European Patent EP 0822473 A2 is in the same patent family.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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